

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 366  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Policy Analysis and Implementation  
**Topic:** RED TAPE REDUCTION  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?

- a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
- b. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
- c. How have they been recruited?
- d. What process was used for their appointment?
- e. What is the total cost of this unit?
- f. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
- g. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- h. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
- i. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer:**

- a) To date, the Environment Portfolio has registered net regulatory savings of more than \$500 million. Regulatory savings for the major deregulatory measures are summarised in the following table.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Annual Savings</b>
'One Stop Shop' environmental approvals process	\$426 million
'One Stop Shop' for offshore petroleum environmental approvals (NOP SEMA)	\$120 million (\$60 million to Environment and \$60 million to Industry Portfolio)
Repealing the Carbon Tax	\$85 million
Removing redundant permit and levy process for sea installations	\$5633
Streamlining regulation of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gas products	\$420 000
Streamlining water assessments for mining projects	\$12 676

- b - i) The Department has established the Environment Portfolio Deregulation Unit. Resourcing for the Unit, including staffing levels and classifications, varies depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action.

These deregulatory activities are being supported from within the Department's existing budget by adjusting internal resources according to normal practice. Officers have access to relevant Cabinet documents on an as-needs basis and hold the required security clearances.